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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION  
150 Broadway  
New York, 7, New York

..."THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT"...

(For Immediate Broadcast)

December..1944

It's December on the "Agricultural Front"! December brings happy holiday celebrations...Christmas...and the end of the old year... New Year's Day. Most Americans are observing this set of holidays by wishing hard for the quickest possible end to the war.

Well, there's one mighty practical way we can help bring that about... and that's salvaging just as much waste fat as we can scrape up. There's as great a need as ever for salvaged fats.

If that's the case...why was lard removed from rationing last spring? That's a question that many people would ask...and it's a natural one. The answer is...at the time, seasonal hog slaughtering had temporarily boosted the supply of lard. And, because most fats and oils may be used interchangeably, we couldn't have others point-free while lard was rationed.

There may be considerably less lard this year than last...and lard is used for many purposes besides cooking. As a matter of fact, our total supply of fats and oils is expected to shrink this year. This reduction is partly due to the fact that imports may actually fall. Our fighting allies and the liberated countries need a great deal of the fats and oils... and they will for some time to come.

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And of course, we can't count on Oriental sources until the Japanese are removed from the Philippines, Malaya, and the East Indies. Fat production here at home may be lower this year than last, too. So not only cooking and eating fats will be in low supply...but also the hard fats needed for war industry...and that means all the waste fats we can salvage.

War industry has many uses for waste fats. They go into the general pool of inedible tallow and greases. They're used in the manufacture of lubricants...fatty acids...and other substances which in turn go into the tools of war. A large portion goes into industrial soap...of which a great deal is used in making standard war materials. Glycerine is a by-product of both fatty acids and industrial soap...and glycerine is vital in the manufacture of explosives. So waste kitchen fats blow up many a bridge...and bomb many a German industry and in general help to speed the progress of the Allied forces.

And if that isn't reason enough for salvaging waste fats, there is the dividend in red points that salvage offers. A homemaker can earn two red points and four cents for every pound of carefully salvaged fat she turns in. All she has to do is keep the waste fat in a can...being careful to strain out the bits of meat and foreign matter. It doesn't matter how old or dark the fat is...as long as it's strained, it's acceptable.

There are more ways of salvaging valuable grease than just pouring off what drains out in cooking. For instance, this month homemakers can scrape the roasters in which they cook the holiday roasts...and scrape broiling pans and frying pans the same way for extra fat before they're washed.





Rich holiday soups can be skimmed for fat...and so can gravies and stews. And the bits of fat trimmed from chops and roasts should never be overlooked. They can be kept in a bowl in the refrigerator, and melted down once a week when the oven's going.

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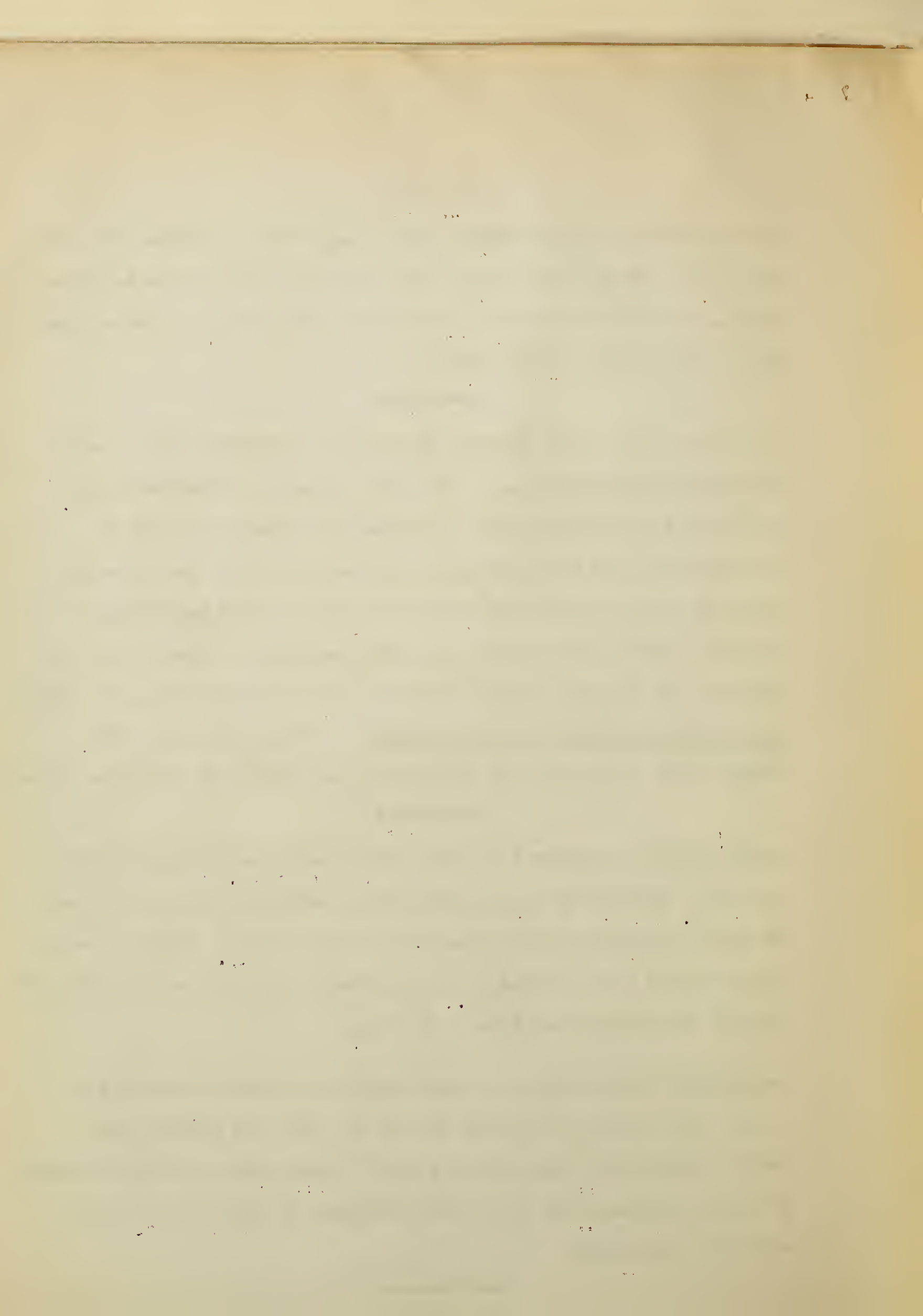
And here's a note about phosphate fertilizer. Sulphuric acid is needed for making superphosphate...but it's also needed for making munitions. So the War Food Administration is cutting its estimate of available super-phosphate for next year by one-half million tons. So the reduced supply of super-phosphate may cause quantities of mixed fertilizers to be reduced. Approved fertilizers will remain unchanged. There is only one thing you can do about possible reduced supplies of fertilizer...and that's place orders and accept deliveries early....then you'll stand a far better chance of getting your fertilizers...especially if quantities are cut.

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There's another necessary item you'd better order now, too...and that's egg cases. Farmers and egg shippers should submit their orders for wood and other fiber cases to the manufacturers immediately. There's a heavy egg production season coming on...and producers may remember the difficulty they had in obtaining egg cases last year.

Originally the WPB deadline on manufacturer's requests for material to be made into cases for the first quarter of 1945, was October 15th. But the deadline has been extended, and the manufacturers are still sending in their requests.....So if you want new wooden or fiber cases, better order them right now.

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And now, some news about food. The War Food Administration has announced a partial revocation of War Food Order 9, which controls the distribution and use of protein meals. The revocation removes manufacturers' quotas, and all inventory provisions...but the order retains the set-aside and distribution provisions.

The modifications which have gone into effect are first, that feed manufacturers aren't limited any longer to their use of protein meals in the manufacture of mixed feeds. Second, restrictions on the amount of protein meal which can be held in inventory are discontinued. Third, the War Food Administration no longer requires certificates of compliance from purchasers of protein meal...except for linseed oil-meal, which is covered by a special order.

The lifting of these restrictions is made possible by the current protein feed supply situation...and the action is taken in line with the War Food Administration's policy of removing wartime regulations as soon as possible.

The War Food Administration, emphasizes, however that care in the ~~dis~~tribution of protein meals is still necessary. The feed trade has been warned that any deviation from the usual distribution pattern might make it necessary to restore the restrictions on the protein meal used in mixed feed. Processors, manufacturers, and dealers are urged to take care of their normal trade requirements to the fullest possible extent, and to supply wherever possible the type of feed the purchaser wants.

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And here's something especially for the holiday ahead. Some of you, of course, may be able to get out and cut down your own Christmas trees... but for those of you who can't...there will be plenty of trees available. The Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates that Christmas trees on December markets will be able to meet the demand. Labor shortage isn't expected to hamper the harvesting of the trees much this year. And the railroads will ship them only by rough freight or plain boxcars as they did last year.

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The Office of the Co-ordinator of Fisheries forecasts the largest winter supply of fresh and frozen fish on record...at least in the eastern half of the country. This record supply is the result of mounting catches by the New England fishing fleet, a record breaking quantity of frozen fish in storage, and recent increases in imports from Canada.

Although the number of vessels fishing out of New England, the center of the fresh fish industry, was reduced early in the war...some of the vessels no longer needed by the Navy have been returned, and coupled with new construction, this has restored the fleet's productive capacity to 1941 levels. And new boats to be added soon will result in still larger catches.

Fish is good to eat...chock full of food value, and it's point-free. Combining all those virtues with the fact that fish is plentiful...it seems to me we wouldn't do much better than to eat plenty of fish in the months ahead.

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Good meals are traditional in the country...and especially good holiday meals. Nowhere are better Christmas dinners cooked...and one of the specialties of holidays on the farm is fruit cake. So here's a brief idea of what we can expect this year in the way of fruit cake ingredients.

Civilians are getting their share of the dried fruit pack right now. The War Food Administration told packers of dried fruit...mainly raisins and prunes, early in October that they could release large amounts of the 1944 pack into civilian trade channels...so those raisins and prunes will be in the stores for the holiday buying. Figs and dates won't go under a food order controlling their distribution...and while the general supply of dried figs is expected to be smaller this year than last, we're getting most of them for the holidays. As for dates, there will be plenty...because this year we're importing them from Iraq again, to swell our home-grown stocks.

Some of the candied fruits...like pineapple for instance...will be hard to get this year...and it might be a good idea to use candied orange or grapefruit peel instead. Nuts are an important ingredient of fruit cake...and they're usually eaten at holiday meals one way or another. The crop report tells us that there's a record pecan crop...and the walnut crop seems even better than last year.

So altogether, we can count on plenty of the good things for fruit cakes...and a large centerpiece fruit bowl for the holiday table, liberally sprinkled with dried fruits and nuts.

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And before I go, here are just a few important points to remember. The holiday season wouldn't be much of a celebration unless we could contribute something toward the speedy end of the war....And a little extra effort in salvaging waste fat is one way to do that. You can give yourself a Christmas present by ordering your egg cases right away...and by ordering and accepting early delivery on your fertilizer....Remember...too...that we have plentiful supplies of the good things for the holiday because fruit and nut growers have worked hard to raise record crops...And make this your holiday resolution...To increase, rather than slacken your efforts to meet wartime production goals...to produce foods badly needed for our armed forces, for civilians, for our allies, and for the liberated countries. Resolve to do our utmost again this year to help speed the day of Victory.

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